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Virginia's Child Support Enforcement Program Collects Millions in Tax Intercepts from Economic Stimulus Rebates

Richmond, Va. – The Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) announced today that its Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) has collected \$13 million in past due child support payments through intercepted Economic Stimulus Act (ESA) rebates.

Since May 2008, more than 23,000 people who owe overdue child support in Virginia have had all or part of their rebate checks diverted to help offset past due arrearages. "Receiving this money will be a tremendous boost for many families who have been waiting for a child support payment, especially those impacted by recent economic conditions such as rising gas and food prices," VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr. said.

In Virginia, child support workers are currently working on 360,000 cases with parents owing a total of \$2.4 billion in current and past due support payments. "Too many of our delinquent parents do not file tax returns or they go into hiding; but for the ones that do file, this is one method we can use to help children and families," said Nick Young, VDSS deputy commissioner and DCSE director.

Once all of the tax returns are processed, DCSE estimates that \$30 million will be redirected to Virginia families through ESA tax rebates. Initially, the U.S Treasury Department intercepts the funds for a variety of reasons including overdue student loans and back taxes; but nationwide state child support programs are the biggest beneficiary and have received more than half of all intercepted money.

More information about Virginia's Child Support Enforcement program can be found on the VDSS Web site at: <http://childsupport.virginia.gov>

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The Virginia Department of Social Services administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services, through 120 local departments of social services throughout the state and its home office in Richmond. The VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse, and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."